

Letter from Empty Space theater director M. Burke Walker in support of the Mayor's proclamation of Gay Pride week, June 30, 1977. Folder 10, Box 61, Wesley C. Uhlman Subject Files, 5287-02. Seattle Municipal Archives.

**THE
EMPTY
SPACE**

919 East Pike Street - Seattle, Washington 98122

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Mayor Wes Uhlman
Municipal Building
Seattle, WA 98104

June 30, 1977

Dear Mayor Uhlman:

Count me in. I applaud your proclamation of Gay Rights Week in Seattle. It is an enlightened stance and I applaud you for it. Today, almost unfortunately, it is a stand which is taking on nearly heroic proportions.

The nationwide reactionary backlash* is distressing and not a little scary. It has already led to violence in other parts of the country; if other public officials were as conscientious as you have been, those incidents might not have happened.

This reaction is clearly coming from a very deep and frustrated and (yes) ignorant place. You might just as easily have proclaimed this Yahoo Month! "They" are trying to roll back nearly a generation of social change: the "fracking faggot revolution" (in the words of the Chicago Seven prosecutor), the Sexual Revolution, Women's Liberation, Abortion, Divorce...all those things which have led to THE DEATH OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY. And homosexuals are being made the scapegoats for all of it. Kind of a Populist McCarthyism.

Let us all hope that it passes without any more harm. And let us all be on the lookout for further incarnations: Yahooism (Bigfoot In Mouth?).

Bravo, and STAND STRONG.
Cordially,

M. Burke Walker

M. Burke Walker
The Empty Space/Director

*To Gay Rights in general, not just to the Seattle situation.

"I don't take any empty space and call it a bare stage. A man walks across the empty space whilst someone else is watching, and this is all that is needed for an act of theater to be engaged." Peter Brook